

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 23-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, and claims 1-2, 11-12 and 24 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claim 23 is allowed and claim 24 contains allowable subject matter and will be allowed once the objection is overcome. Dependent claims 2 and 12 are amended to depend from allowed claims 23 and 24, respectively. Accordingly, claims 2 and 12 are also in condition for allowance.

I. Formal Matters

The specification is amended at paragraph [0011] as suggested. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 24. Claim 24 is amended as suggested to add a comma. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,195 to Herz in view of newly applied U.S. Patent No. 6,681,247. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended for clarity and now recite that multi-modal user path information is constructed using multi-modal content portion feature information and connection information. Additionally, these claims recite that multi-modal user information need is determined for each significant user path.

Neither Herz nor Payton teach or suggest such features. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 and the claims dependent therefrom define over the applied art and are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herz in view of Payton, further in view of prior art "Mining Longest Repeating Subsequences to Predict

World Wide Web Surfing" by James Pitkow and Peter Pirolli. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Pitkow article fails to overcome the deficiencies of Herz and Payton with respect to independent claims 1 and 11. Thus, claims 3 and 13 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

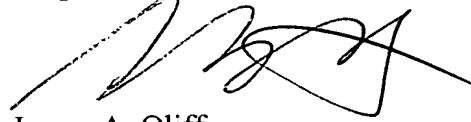
The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herz in view of Payton, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,384 to Johnson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Johnson fails to overcome the deficiencies of Herz and Payton with respect to independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 5 and 15 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 and 23-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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